

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

VOL. XXIV

MARCH, 1913

No. 5

The Woman's Aid society will have its monthly meeting Thursday afternoon, April 11, in the lecture rooms of the church.

The monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society will be held Thursday afternoon, April 17, at the home of Mrs. Bitner, on East Lewis.

All day sewing at the church Thursday, April 10. At least fifty of the women of Grace church should attend these sewings.

The supper by section No. 2, scheduled to be given Thursday, April 4th, has been postponed until Thursday, May 8. This postponement has been made owing to the fact that a number of the women in this section are among the flood sufferers.

Rev. and Mrs. Diefenbach and children, of Bluffton, were guests at the parsonage for a day recently.

As the beautiful spring weather is coming we expect to see a very much larger attendance at our Sunday school and at our church services.

Mr. George Shiffer will now assume charge of the Young Men's Bible class. We hope all the young men of the church will come and help to boost this class.

Our people have been anxious to know about the safety of our relatives at Dayton, O. We have tried very hard to get reports from them, but up to this time, only know that they have been rescued and are safe. We fear very much that those who lived in the flooded district have lost about everything they had. We are very anxious for fuller reports from them.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Vordermark entertained the Laymen's League at their home on Walton avenue at their monthly meeting March 11th. The men had a splendid time and enjoyed the evening very much, and they especially enjoyed the luncheon served by Mrs. Vordermark.

The pastor has received his official credentials as a delegate, to represent the Reformed church in the United states, at the Tenth General Council of the Alliance of the Reformed churches holding the Presbyterian system to be held in Aberdeen, Scotland, June 17-27, 1913. He has also received credentials from the World's Sunday School Association, certifying that Mrs. Zartman and himself have been appointed delegates from the state of Indiana to the World's Seventh Sunday School convention at Zurich Switzerland, July 8-15, 1913. Mrs. Zartman has been ill for a number of weeks, but if she will regain her health sufficiently we expect to go abroad for these conventions.

The Easter week services were fairly well attended and we believe were thoroughly enjoyed by our people. The men who preached for us gave us splendid sermons, they were edifying and instructive. Rev. Edward Montgomery, pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, preached for us on Monday evening. Rev. A. R. Evans, of the Westminster Presbyterian church, preached on Tuesday evening and Rev. E. M. Tood, pastor of the West Jefferson Street Church of Christ, gave us the sermon on Wednesday evening. Rev. C. O. Shirey, pas-

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

tor of the Bethany Presbyterian church, preached on Thursday evening. We are very grateful to these brethren for their assistance and are only sorry that not more of our people were out to hear them.

The following persons were received into the Church at the Easter service. By confirmation: Helen F. Weickard, Hattie L. Powers, Helen V. Zeis, Emily L. Eberwine, Margaret W. Eberwine, Arthur C. Eberwine, Esther B. Kessler, Esther M. Bitner, Leona M. Botteran, Lucile Barnes, William F. Reiter, Ralph F. Reiter, Clarence J. Reiter, Walter Reiter. By reprofession: Mr. Henry Eberwine, Mrs. Elizabeth Eberwine, formerly members of the Lutheran church at Sandusky, Ohio; Mrs. Anna Sunly, formerly a member of the St. John's Reformed Church, Fort Wayne; Mrs. Clara Barnes, formerly a member of the Salem Reformed Church; We extend a very hearty and cordial welcome to all these people, and assure them of our interest in their spiritual well and trust they will find a very pleasant home in Grace Church, and ask all to join hands with us in the Master's work.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN.

Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Schible and Alice May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin, were baptized Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 12, at the home of their grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm Martin.

Zoltan, son of Mr. Karly and Mrs. Rebecca Nagy (Hungarian), was baptized Sabbath afternoon, March 9, at the parsonage.

John David, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sessler, was baptized Tuesday evening, March 11, at the home on Cass street.

Palm Sunday, March 16, the pastor baptized the twin babies of Mr. and Mrs. William Botteran, born March 7th. Louis Herman and Lucile Fredricka, at the home on Buchanan street.

Easter morning, March 23, Harold

Sylvester, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Zeis, was baptized at the church.

Tuesday afternoon, April 1, at the parsonage the children of Mr. and Mrs. William Krouk were baptized, Marshall Adams and Marie Annes.

The services on Easter Sunday were a great disappointment to many of our people. We mean to those who could not attend on account of the storm. The absence of so many of our people was a disappointment and source of regret to those who were present. In the twenty-five years of our pastorate with Grace church, we never had such an Easter Sunday of storm and continuous downpour of rain. The services were enjoyed by those who braved the storm and came to the church. The music by the choir was greatly enjoyed and gave inspiration to the service. The floral decorations were beautiful and added much to the appearance of the church. The Holy Communion is always a sacred and solemn service and a joy to the Lord's people. The reception of such a large number of young people into the church was a matter of special interest and rejoicing to the congregation.

The next event of special interest to the church will be the service on Pentecost, when Grace church will celebrate her 30th anniversary. We will have reception of members, baptism of children and communion services on that day. We hope to make it a great day.

FORT WAYNE'S FLOOD.

The continuous rain of Easter Sunday and Monday following brought to Indiana and Ohio the greatest flood and destruction of human life and property in the history of the two sister states. Old settlers say Fort Wayne never had such high waters and such destruction of property. We can readily believe this statement. We have been in the city nearly twenty-five years and we never witnessed anything like it. Twenty-five years ago many of the flooded districts were

without homes and therefore floods could not have wrought as much havoc as now. While there has been a great destruction of property in the city, we are thankful that there was not a greater loss of life. Fort Wayne has been fortunate as compared with other Indiana and Ohio cities. Of all the cities in the flooded district none has suffered more than Dayton, O. Thousands of people are homeless and destitute. The property loss is estimated \$150,000,000. The loss of life from two to three hundred and 100,000 people will have to be fed and sheltered for an indefinite length of time. People in Fort Wayne have been responding nobly to the needs of the flood sufferers. Homes and public buildings were opened to the people who had to flee from their homes and every kindness and consideration was shown them. The pastor tried to keep in touch with the people of his own parish, who had to flee from their homes but found it impossible to locate some because all telephone connections were cut off from some districts of the city. Since the waters have subsided we have been glad to learn that all our families were safe. Some of our people telephoned to the parsonage telling us that their homes were open for any that were not sheltered. Some of our families did not suffer much loss; others when they returned to their homes found things worse than they had expected. About fifty families of Grace Church had to leave their homes, making in all, including children, some over two hundred that were in the flooded districts. These families have our sympathy, and were a source of untold anxiety too as during the flood. We are thankful that none of our people perished in the waters. Keep up your courage, the floods are gone and the sun is shining. There will be a happier and brighter day again for all. It is not likely that Fort Wayne will

ever again have such a flood. The rivers will be deepened and the dikes will be rebuilt and will be stronger and safer than ever. Nebraska, Bloomingdale, Spy Run and Lakeside will blossom again like a summer garden. Do not be discouraged by croakers and pessimists, they never built cities and never strew flowers in the paths of any. Go on and repair and beautify your homes, plant your flowers and be happy. God has not forgotten you. He is with you in your day of trouble and He will prosper you and deliver you out of your trial. Let us remember that the afflictions of this present life work out for us a far greater and exceeding weight of glory. Reverses are not generally as bad as they seem and our disappointments are often God's appointments of better things for us.

Friday afternoon, March 14 Rev. and Mrs. Ruf entertained the women of Grace church at the orphanage. About fifty of our women were out to spend the afternoon at the home. Bro. and Mrs. Ruf are soon going to their new home at Bay City, Mich., where they begin their work with the Reformed church. The women of the church were delighted to spend another afternoon at the home with these devoted and earnest servants of the Lord. For fourteen years they have superintended the work at the home and have been father and mother to the orphan children of the Reformed church. Every one who is acquainted with the home knows how faithfully Mr. and Mrs. Ruf have served the church and how successful they have been in the work. The home is now equipped with all the modern improvements and conveniences and the farm is in a good state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Ruf have the confidence and esteem of the business men and citizens of Fort Wayne. We are certainly sorry to have them leave the city and they will continue to have our best wishes and

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

prayers for their welfare and future success in their work. We shall always have the happiest recollections of our associations with them while at the home and shall hope to see them often.

During her illness Mrs. Zartman has been devoting some of her time in composing music, some of which we hope to have in print before long, and for use in our services.

Mr. Clark Bolander, of Akron, O., a former member of Grace church, was a caller at the parsonage on a recent afternoon. After spending an hour or more with us we took him over to see the church and new organ. He was very much pleased with the auditorium and lecture rooms and with the organ.

Mrs. F. D. Paulus, of Akron, O., one of the charter members of Grace church, was a guest at the parsonage over Easter. She was on her way to visit friends in Michigan and stopped off in the city to attend our Easter services. We were more than pleased to have her with us and only regret that Easter Sunday was such a bad day. She will visit Fort Wayne later in the season, when she will be here for several weeks.

DEATHS.

Mrs. Wilhelmina Reiter died at her home on Edsal avenue, Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, after an illness of several weeks. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Waldo. She was born in Fort Wayne, October 2, 1856. She was united in marriage to Henry Reiter October 12, 1879. She was baptized in her infancy and at an early age she was confirmed in the Lutheran church, of which she was a member until about three years ago, when she and her daughter united with Grace church. She

was greatly interested in the work and welfare of Grace church and was anxious to bring other members of her family into the church. She was an unassuming and good-hearted woman. She was a kind and loving mother and a good neighbor. For some time she realized that she was nearing the end of life's journey. She was resigned and confident, she had but one concern that weighed upon her heart and that was the welfare of her younger sons, but she felt assured that the Lord would provide for them. We were greatly rejoiced in receiving four of these sons into the church at our Easter communion. They could not have done anything to honor the memory of their mother more than taking the step which they did. We pray for the Lord's blessing upon these boys and the whole family. Mr. Reiter died three years ago. Mrs. Reiter was the mother of 7 sons and five daughters. She was also mother to two step-sons and three step-daughters. Nine sons and six daughters survive her, also thirteen grandchildren, two brothers and four sisters. The funeral services were held from the church Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 25th.

Mrs Anna Niehoff, wife of Rev. John Niehoff, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Rev. John Rettig at New Philadelphia, O., Monday evening, March 13th, after an illness of a few weeks. Mrs. Niehoff was born in Fort Wayne and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Vordermark. She resided in this city until her marriage and then returned again to Fort Wayne after the death of her husband about twenty years ago. She lived with her daughter after her marriage at Covington, Ky., and New Philadelphia, O. While in this city, after the death of her husband she and her family were members of Grace Church. She was a very active worker in the church and a woman of exceptional ability. She was a consecrated, earnest servant of the Lord.

She was the mother of three children, two sons and one daughter, also a stepson and a step-daughter. All survive her except the step-daughter. Rev. J. A. Niehof, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Wellsville, O., is one of the sons. She was brought to Fort Wayne for burial. The funeral services were held from Grace pastor regreted very much that he was not well enough to take charge of the service. Rev. F. H. Diem, of Huntington, conducted the service. We extend our sympathy to these families in their sorrow.

IMPORTANT QUESTION.

By Rev. Salem D. Towne.

1. What is it to be a Christian?

In a word it is to be like Christ.

First—To be a discipline or learner of Christ.—John 8: 31; 13: 35.

Second—To be a follower of Christ.—Matthew 9: 9.

Third—To be a witness for Christ.—Isaiah 43: 10. Acts 22: 15.

Fourth—To be a servant of Christ.—I Cor. 7: 22.

Fifth—To be a friend of Christ and in fellowship with Him.—John 15: 14, 15.

Why Should I be a Christian?

First—The Son of God who gave His life to redeem me, invites me to follow Him and so be a Christian.—Matthew 16: 24.

Second—The noblest and strongest characters the world has ever known have been made such by being Christians.—Matthew 5: 13-16.

Third—My own salvation depends upon being a Christian.—Luke 12: 8-9.

Fourth—My largest usefulness upon earth and my hope of heaven depend upon my being a Christian.—Luke 16: 10, 11. Col. 1: 27.

The Whatsoever Committee of the Young People's Society wisses to express its thanks to individual members of the Church and Sunday School classes for assistance rendered in furnishing flowers for our church services and especially for Easter Sunday.

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MRS. ALLEN K. ZARTMAN.

Y. P. S. C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

April 6.—The Ideal Christian; His Humility. Matt. 20:20-28. (Consecration meeting). Edith Shiffer.

April 13.—I Can Do All Things. Phil. 4:4-13. Ester Fritz.

April 20.—Favorite Verses in the Psalms. Ps. 19:1-14. Loretta Gooley.

April 27.—Mission Work at Home and Abroad; Bible Work. Acts, 17:1-2. Anna Doermer.

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